

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 2 and 11 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter

therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 3-10 and 12 as follows:

1. (Amended) A welding wire comprising
- a wire having a wire surface; and
 - a deposit on the wire surface, wherein the deposit comprises
 - at least one lubricating particle, and
 - at least one hydrocarbon compound selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acids and metal carboxylates;
 - the at least one lubricating particle comprises a material selected from the group consisting of molybdenum disulfide, tungsten disulfide, graphite carbon and polytetrafluoroethylene;
 - the at least one hydrocarbon compound consists of atoms selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, phosphorus and metal atoms; and
 - the at least one hydrocarbon compound has either
 - a cyclic structure, or
 - a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, structure with from 5 to 12 carbon atoms.

3. (Amended) The welding wire according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one hydrocarbon compound comprises a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of pentanoic acid, caproic acid, caprylic acid, octylic acid, secanoic acid, capric acid, decanoic acid, lauric acid, linderic acid and synthetic fatty acids.

4. (Amended) The welding wire according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbon compound comprises a metal carboxylate that is a metal salt of a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of pentanoic acid, caproic acid, caprylic acid, octylic acid, secanoic acid, capric acid, decanoic acid, lauric acid, linderic acid and synthetic fatty acids; and

the metal salt comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, Mg, Al, K, Ca, Ti, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Zr, Sn, Cs, Pb and Ce.

5. (Amended) The welding wire according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one hydrocarbon compound has a cyclic structure.

6. (Amended) The welding wire according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one hydrocarbon compound comprises a naphthenic acid having a five-membered ring or six-membered ring structure.

7. (Amended) The welding wire according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one hydrocarbon compound comprises a metal naphthenate containing a metal selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, Mg, Al, K, Ca, Ti, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Zr, Sn, Cs, Pb and Ce.

8. (Amended) The welding wire according to Claim 1, wherein
the at least one hydrocarbon compound comprises at least one metal naphthenate that
is a metal salt of a naphthenic acid; and
the metal salt comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, Mg, Al,
K, Ca, Ti, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Zr, Sn, Cs, Pb and Ce.

9. (Amended) The welding wire according to Claim 1, wherein the deposit further
comprises at least one lubricating oil selected from the group consisting of animal and plant
oils, mineral oils, and synthetic oils.

10. (Amended) The welding wire according to Claim 9, wherein the at least one
hydrocarbon compound and the at least one lubricating oil are deposited on the wire surface
in a total amount of 0.1 to 5 g per 10 kg of the wire.

12. (Amended) The welding wire according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one
hydrocarbon compound and the at least one lubricating particle are deposited on the wire
surface in a total amount of 0.1 to 5 g per 10 kg of the wire.

Please add new Claim 13 as follows:

--13. (New) A method of making a welding wire, the method comprising
coating a wire with a deposit, and
producing the welding wire of Claim 1.--

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment amends the specification; cancels Claims 2 and 11; amends Claims 1, 3-10 and 12; and adds new Claims 13. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. The specification is amended to correct typographical errors. Support for the amendments to Claim 1 is found in original Claim 1; canceled Claim 11 ("*lubricating particles* being made of at least one member selected from the group consisting of *molybdenum disulfide, tungsten disulfide, graphite carbon and polytetrafluoroethylene*"); canceled Claim 2 ("*carboxylic acid or a metal salt thereof*"), and in the specification at least at page 6, lines 14-16 ("The above-mentioned saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon compounds having a linear or branched-chain structure are called "chain compound". Examples of the chain compound include *carboxylic acids or metal carboxylates*"); page 7, lines 2-3 ("The hydrocarbon compounds having a cyclic structure preferably include *carboxylic acids and metal carboxylates*"); page 7, line 18 ("at least one type of lubricating particle"); page 6, lines 9-12; page 23, line 16 ("deposit"); and page 19, lines 3-11 ("Examples of the *hydrocarbon compounds* having a benzene ring structure The cyclic structure may be constituted of atoms including, aside from carbon, *oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur or phosphorus*"). No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1, 3-10 and 12-13 will be pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent.